

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

We are writing to urge you to restore full funding to the U.S. Census Bureau and to preserve the American Community Survey as part of the FY 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

When an ideological vote of House Republicans unites the editorial pages of *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post* in opposition, it's time to pay attention.

The American Community Survey is a modern version of Census questionnaires dating back to 1810 in the form of the housing and population schedules of the 19th century, and the so-called "long form" of the 20th century. It is the only survey large and accurate enough to help small and large communities, rural and urban cities, and suburbs and exurbs obtain reliable data on changes in their population and economic activity. It tells communities where to plan for new schools and fire stations, small business owners where markets are growing, and large retailers and manufacturers where to plan for new sites.

Recent House action to zero out the American Community Survey risks undermining confidence in the independence of federal statistics. The United States is the gold standard in producing trusted, independent, scientific, and transparent national statistical measures. Today we ask you to ensure this history continues unblemished, and to help the country strengthen our economic recovery.

The House also slashed overall funding to the Census Bureau, leading to the likely elimination of the Economic Census. This survey gauges economic activity, measures GDP, and helps provide critical data to help business investment and economic growth. The planning and pre-staging of the Economic Census are done, and the forms are ready to be mailed to more than 5 million American businesses. Unless we fully fund the President's budget request, we risk throwing away \$250 million in preparations.

For all of these reasons, we call on the Senate to preserve the American Community Survey with no political strings attached and to restore full funding to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

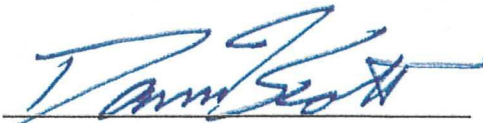


Danny K. Davis
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and National Archives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



Karen Bass

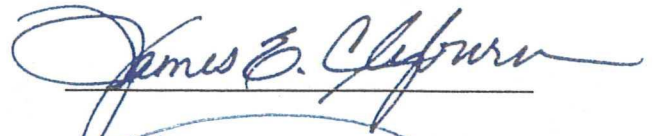
Frederica S. Wilson



Michael M. Amodeo

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Eul Blumenthal

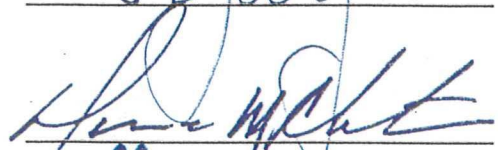


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